

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, OCON, UN XF

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE; POSITION PAPER ON ZIONISM-
RACISM

ZIONISM-RACISM - CONTINGENCY POSITION PAPER

THE ISSUE

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO CURRENT INDICATIONS THAT THE ZIONISM-
RACISM ISSUE WILL ARISE AT THE WATER CONFERENCE, EXPERIENCE
AT PREVIOUS CONFERENCES DICTATES THAT THE US DELEGATION
PLAN FOR ITS INTRODUCTION. THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
ADOPTED AT HABITAT -- OVER THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE US
AND OTHERS -- INCLUDED REFERENCES TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 3379 (XXX) WHICH TERMED ZIONISM A FORM OF
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RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
THIS ISSUE CONTRIBUTED TO A PROCESS
OF POLITICIZATION OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE, TO THE
DETRIMENT OF THE ISSUES FOR WHICH THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD.

US POSITION

1. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE US DELEGATION SUPPORT

OR ABSTAIN ON A RESOLUTION WHICH INCLUDES EXPLICIT OR VEILED REFERENCES TO THE ZIONISM-RACISM EQUATION. THUS WE OPPOSE EVEN GENERAL REFERENCES TO ALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, BECAUSE SUCH REFERENCES WOULD AUTOMATICALLY ENCOMPASS RESOLUTION 3379.

2. THE DELEGATION SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK TO HEAD OFF INCLUSION OF THESE REFERENCES, ARGUING THAT THEY ARE EXTRANEOUS TO THE AIMS OF THE WATER CONFERENCE AND COULD VERY WELL SIDETRACK THE CONFERENCE FROM ITS MAJOR TASKS. THE DELEGATION SHOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY EFFORTS TO INCLUDE SUCH REFERENCES IN CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, AND PROVIDE DRAFT TEXTS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

3. IF TIME CONSTRAINTS PRECLUDE WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS, THE DELEGATION SHOULD ARGUE STRENUOUSLY AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS ISSUE. THE DELEGATION SHOULD CALL FOR A VOTE ON ANY ITEM INCLUDING REFERENCES TO ZIONISM-RACISM, VOTE AGAINST THE ITEM, URGE OTHERS TO DO SO, AND MAKE A STATEMENT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE US DELEGATION REGRETS THAT THIS CONFERENCE, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF WATER, HAS INSTEAD SUCCUMBED TO THE RHETORIC OF MEANINGLESS POLITICAL CONTENTION.

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-- THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED THE EFFORT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EQUATE ZIONISM AND RACISM, AND WE OPPOSE ANY REITERATION OF THAT GROUNDLESS COMPARISON.

-- NOT ONLY DO WE OPPOSE THE EQUATION ON ITS OWN LACK OF MERIT, BUT WE ARE ASTONISHED THAT IT HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO A CONFERENCE ON WATER, AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN DIVERTING THE ATTENTION OF SO MANY STATES FROM THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS OF HANDLING WATER-RELATED PROBLEMS.

-- THE US AND OTHERS MAY BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT IMPORTANT CONFERENCES, SUCH AS THIS ONE, WHICH ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE SIDETRACKED INTO TOPICS OF CONFRONTATION MAY NOT BE WORTH THE EFFORT THAT GOES INTO THE PREPARATIONS.

-- THE UNITED STATES CANNOT SUPPORT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE STRENUOUSLY EFFORTS TO LINK ZIONISM AND RACISM AND EFFORTS TO ENDORSE, EVEN INDIRECTLY, RESOLUTIONS WHICH ALLEGE SUCH AN EQUATION.

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